

# Currents

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*Megwa Ezhiweback*



*Mndoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)*  
January 2011 vol.8 Issue 1



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ROMANELLI**



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*Office of Public  
Affairs  
Contact Information  
1-888-723-8288  
1-231-398-6840*

## Election Slate of Candidates Announced

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board has announced the slate of candidates for the upcoming Primary and General election. The primary will have a run off for the Office of Tribal Council at Large and the Office of Tribal County 9 County. Winners will then meet in the General Election along with those members running for the Office of the Tribal Ogema, Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge and Office of Election Board. See the full slate on page 4.

## Tribal Government wins Chamber of Commerce Award

The LRBOI government won a top award from the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce at their annual dinner held at the Little River Casino Resort. See more details on page 6.



## Christmas parties, an Elders Dance and fun on the rez!



A record number of tribal youth gathered at the Casino Makwaa Endaat for the Children's Christmas Party this year. Tribal Elders joined in the holiday spirit with their own dance. See photos and more details on pages 12 & 13

## Elders Conference held at Little River



Tribal Elders held what is being called the most successful conference ever this year at the Little River Casino Resort. See details and photos on page 13.

## Repatriation events honored those who have walked on

Tribal members, led by Tribal Historical Preservation Director Jonnie "Jay" Sam II participated in two separate events this month reburial remains of our ancestors with honor.

Photos and the story are on pages 7 & 8.



Aanii:

Both our Casino Resort and our Tribal Government deserve honorable mention. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Little River Bands of Ottawa Indians, through its Little River Casino Resort handed over the third largest 2% PILT payment in the Tribe's history to Manistee County. Thank you and congratulations to the entire staff at the resort for their hard work. According to the Michigan Gaming Board, the Little River Casino Resort was the ONLY gaming entity in Michigan to show increased revenues in 2010 over 2009. Nice job! We should all be proud of our Resort's management and staff.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, I and several council members attended the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner held at the Little River Casino Resort's Three Fires Conference Center. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Government received its first ever Business of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce! We shared this honor with another great local business, Blarney Castle. I, again, want to thank the entire government staff for their dedication and hard work. It is our staff, who earned this award. Miigwetch. Special thanks to Robert Memberto, who serves on the Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors and Glenn Zaring for his involvement over the years with the Chamber. It was also announced that Charmaine Stone, will also take a seat on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations.

As explained by Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melissa Reed, this award was given based on a variety of criteria, of which LRBOI met all of them, they include: signing of mutual aid agreement with local units of government; establishing the Resort as an emergency shelter; our employment and training efforts; renovations of our Manistee downtown offices; our land management/stewardship along with our active involvement in the local community. Again,

thanks to all who helped us achieve this award. We were also recognized by the County Board of Directors through its Chairman, Alan O'Shea.

Our Membership Meeting schedule will now follow a schedule of being the second Saturday in April and the second Saturday in October for at least the next several years with ONE exception. October 8<sup>th</sup> is not available at the Resort so the Fall Membership Meeting of 2011 will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> instead. This is at the suggestion of some of our citizens to have them the same time each year. We chose the second Saturday's to accommodate people by being right after per cap checks are out in the Spring and Fall.

Our Muskegon casino efforts have begun again since the State elections have concluded and it still appears it won't be a "cake walk". We have our work cut out for us, but have lost no support for our efforts.

Speaking of elections, our tribal elections are underway and please remember that you must be registered to vote. Now is not the time for complacency. I believe you must be registered by the end of the year to vote in the upcoming general election.

I want to thank those people who have stepped forward to submit their names to serve on various committees and commissions. I believe there is some confusion on how one goes about submitting their name for consideration. First, you must submit your name to Mary Thomas in letter form as a "letter of interest"; you must name the committee or commission you are applying for. Please date your letter or submit an e-mail to [mthomas@lrboi.com](mailto:mthomas@lrboi.com). Your letter of interest will stay on file for only one year and must be updated yearly. Your name will be added to a list for that particular position. Once a vacancy occurs, the list will be reviewed to determine qualifications. The letter of interest that was submitted the earliest will be looked at first. The name is also looked at to see if they are already serving on another committee/commission; we prefer not to have a person serve on more than one committee or commission if possible

to give more people a chance. Qualifications are also a determining factor to be considered. One person may have more experience than another which will be considered. Once a person is selected by the Ogema, the person will be notified that their name has been selected. That name is then presented to the Tribal Council for ratification at the next regular meeting of council, usually within a week. If not ratified, that name is withdrawn and another must be submitted to Council until they approve a person. There are at least two commissions that require an extensive background check; Binojeeuk and Gaming. You must fill out paperwork and submit to Mary Thomas who will forward the paperwork and let you know when it returns. This can take several weeks; sometimes less. Please remember that oversight of committees and commissions is by the Tribal Council. I hope everyone has an enjoyable, peaceful holiday season with family and friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

REMEMBER "The real trouble with reality is there is no background music."



## Commissions and Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees or commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office indicating which committee/commission you are interested in.

Commerce Commission  
Gaming Commission  
Housing Commission  
Binojeeuk Commission  
Enrollment Commission  
Health Commission  
Natural Resource Commission.

## Black Lake Sturgeon Spearing in February

The Natural Resources Commission will be authorizing sturgeon spearing in Black Lake (Cheboygan County) for this February. Spearing will take place through the ice. A date for harvest has not been determined but the spearing opportunity will be taking place in early February. If you are interested in an opportunity to harvest a sturgeon please contact the LRBOI Natural Resource Department (231-723-1594) and we can give you more information about the harvest and permitting details. Also, the Department can provide you with information and phone numbers about renting ice shanties while on Black Lake.



## Support continues for Muskegon Project

### Editorial: Don't adjourn just yet

Published: Sunday, November 28, 2010, 8:29 AM  
Paula Holmes-Greeley | The Muskegon Chronicle  
Lawmakers have a few things to do before session ends

Next week — or maybe even this week — the Michigan Legislature is expected to call it quits for the year. It would be one of the earliest adjournments in recent memory. Of course, our elected officials will be drawing paychecks until Dec. 31.

Apparently, the lame-duck representatives and senators don't see any reason to do their jobs because of the impending changes Jan. 1, when newly elected politicians will replace most of them. This action follows a year devoted to little more than running for office and trying to get budget bills passed — which still took right up until the last day available. If you had to grade the accomplishments of lawmakers in 2010, you'd probably fail them.

But lawmakers have a chance to redeem themselves.

If they stay in session until Dec. 16, which still gives them a little over a two-week break before the new session begins in January, and they keep their noses to the grindstone, they could address several issues concerning the state's economy that would help get the new governor and Legislature off to a great start. It also would let governments and businesses in West Michigan start the new year with some major issues resolved instead of being forced to continue spinning their wheels.

Here's a few issues that need to be considered:

Lakeshore Casino and Resort: The legislation that would allow for the construction of an off-reservation casino in Fruitport Township has

been the subject of several committee hearings, including one in Muskegon County, and nothing but delays since Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Ogema Larry Romanelli signed a compact amendment in March.

The casino's financial contributions to state and local governments have been established and appear fair. Our newly elected senator, Goeff Hansen, R-Hart, during an Editorial Board interview described the compact as one of the most favorable ever for the state.

House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford Twp., who has been identified as a major roadblock, has a new job with Gov.-elect Rick Snyder's administration that won't require him to seek campaign contributions.

So what's the holdup?

Muskegon residents have voiced support for gambling both at hearings and through their actions — we're a major purchaser of lottery tickets and supporters of bingo and Texas Hold'em charity games. This area needs the nearly 1,000 temporary and permanent jobs the casino would generate and the estimated \$400 million impact on the economy.

It's about jobs. It's a win-win situation. Get that legislation passed.

Offshore Wind Farm Regulations: House Bill 6567 was introduced and supported by several shoreline legislators including Sen. Jerry Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores. The legislation is based on a study by the Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council, which was created by Granholm as an advisory body within the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth to examine offshore wind development.

The GLOW proposals were presented during a series of hearings earlier this year, including one in Muskegon.

The bill "gives our residents a seat at the table to make sure the projects that move forward are the best for our workers, our economy, our Great Lakes and our communities," Van Woerkom said.

The new law also would provide a framework to begin serious discussions with developers and manufacturers about where and how Michigan will accept offshore wind projects.

Pure Michigan: The state's tourism advertising campaign has paid off. The state travel bureau estimates that in 2009 Pure Michigan motivated 680,000 new trips from outside the Great Lakes region and resulted in more than \$250 million being spent at Michigan businesses. For every dollar spent on the Pure Michigan national campaign, new visits to Michigan stimulated by that advertising generated \$2.23 in state tax collections. In addition, the campaign has won numerous industry awards for its ingenuity and effectiveness.

Attempts to generate funds for the program through an assessment on rental vehicles failed and the state had to cancel the fall tourism campaign. But now an improved economy has generated additional tax revenue that could be used to fund a holiday and winter campaign.

Why would lawmakers fail to fund something that clearly works?

The next Legislature is going to have its hands full learning the ropes and restructuring the state's tax and budget process. They won't have time to work on these issues. That's why our current lawmakers need to get 'er done.

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Aanni citizens,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and looking forward to 2011.

December has been busy and council continues to work on a new Indian Preference Ordinance which should be complete and posted in next few weeks. Many hours have been spent in work sessions and it is a very detailed ordinance. Council currently has 15-20 ordinances that need to be revised, revisited or written so I am looking forward to a very productive 2011.

I attended the Board of Directors in October and November and plan on attending the December meeting. I attended the Elders Conference in November which was a huge success, thank you to the Elders committee and June Sam for doing such a wonderful job and I look forward to next year.

The housing task force still meets every Thursday and we receive updates on the construction. Some of the duplexes maybe completed this month and be ready for occupancy after the first of the year. Muschigon workers are currently working on getting siding on before the weather gets bad so during the winter months their focus will be on finishing the interior of the homes. If you are ever in the neighborhood of Aki please stop and see the great work these men have done, it is just amazing.

In January a group will be formed to plan for a community staff. An eagle head has been donated by Robert Memberto and the group will design the staff and many of our talented citizens will be ask to help with this project. The goal would be to have the staff complete for the dedication of the new government center. Little River Band received some exciting news, the government office was named employer of the year by the Manistee Chamber of Commerce. Every citizen can be very proud of the hard work and dedication by your government employees. To all Thank You!

Last but not least please remember to register to vote if you have not already done so.

Until next month, stay warm and as always if you have any question for me please call 231-398-6854 or email me at [sandymezeeske@lrboi.com](mailto:sandymezeeske@lrboi.com).

Sandy Mezeske

*"No Tribal Council Report was submitted."*

## Certified Slate of Candidates for Primary for 2011 Regular Election

### Office of Tribal Council at large

Loretta J. Beccaria  
Cindy Champagne  
Kimberly Alexander  
Shannon Paul Crampton

### Office of Tribal Council - 9County

Jeff Battice  
Gary Paul DiPizza  
Rita Annette Gale  
Karen Love  
Patricia "Pat" Ruiter  
Peggy J. Vriesman  
Michael J. Ceplina  
Jamie L. Friedel  
Sandy Mezeske  
Joseph Riley Sr.  
Edward Tyler  
Bob J. Whiteloon

## Certified Slate of Candidates for 2011 General Election

### Office of Ogema

Larry "Little Thunder" Romanelli  
Janine M. Sam

### Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge

Berni L. Carlson  
Bill Willis  
Kimberly Crampton (Kequom)

### Office of Election Board

Tammy S. Bowen  
Corey Anthony Wells  
Tracy Frees

**Election Board  
Little River Band of  
Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660  
Phone: 1-888-723-8288**

## Election Board Office Hours Nov./Dec. 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1 pm to 5 pm	2 10 am to 2 pm	3 10 am to 2 pm Muskegon Office	4 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm Muskegon Office 1 pm to 5 pm Manistee	5 1 pm to 5 pm	6
7	8 10 am to 2 pm	9 10 am to 2 pm Muskegon Office  1 pm to 5 pm Manistee	10 11 am to 3 pm	11 <b>Closed for Veteran's Day</b>	12 10 am to 2 pm	13
14	15 10 am to 2 pm	16 10 am to 2 pm Muskegon Office	17 12 pm to 3:30 pm	18 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm Muskegon Office	19 11 am to 3 pm	20
21	22 12 pm to 4 pm	23 1 pm to 5 pm	24 <b>Closed</b>	25 <b>for</b>	26 <b>Thanksgiving</b>	27
28	29 10 am to 2 pm Muskegon Office  11 am to 3 pm Manistee	30 1 pm to 5 pm Muskegon Office	Dec. 1 1 pm to 5 pm	2 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm Muskegon Office  11 am to 3 pm Manistee	3 10 am to 5 pm	4

The Election Board Office is located in the Old Community Center on South US 31 in Manistee.

*Gaá Čhing Ziibi Daáwaá Aníshinaábek*

## LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

### ELECTION BOARD

375 River Street

Manistee, MI 49660

(231) 723-8288

## Announcement of General Election

Date of Election: April 29, 2011

Offices to be Elected: Office of Tribal Ogema  
Office of Tribal Council – Nine County District (three seats)  
Office of Tribal Council – At-Large District (one seat)  
Office of Election Board (two seats)  
Office of Appellate Court Judge (one seat)

### Procedures for Establishing Candidacy

*For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Ogema* – To run for the Office of Tribal Ogema, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council – Nine County District and At-Large District* – To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District or the At-Large District, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Election Board* -- To run for the Election Board, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Appellate Court Judge* -- To run for the Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge, a prospective candidate must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

### Election Calendar

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available.....	November 1
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due.....	December 3
Slate of Candidates certified.....	December 10
Last day to withdraw candidacy.....	December 17
Ballots mailed out for Primary.....	January 10
Ballots due and Primary Election Day.....	February 11
Deadline for Primary Election Challenges.....	February 18
Ballots mailed.....	March 28
Ballots due and Election Day.....	April 29
Deadline for petitions for recount.....	May 6
Deadline for election challenges.....	May

The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The ballot counting will be held at the Little River Community Center on U.S. 31 in Manistee, MI. Ballot counting process begins at 12:00 pm.

The General Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot and a central polling place. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The central polling place will be located at the Little River Community Center on U.S. 31 in Manistee, MI. The hours for the polling place will be 10 am until 6 pm on April 29, 2011.

A copy of the Election Board Office Hours from November 1, 2010 through December 3, 2010 has been included in this mailing.

**Please note:** In accordance with the Election Board Regulations chapter 2, section 1(d): “If Voter Registration Form is not received by the Election Board 56 calendar days before an election, the eligible voter will not be registered to vote in that election.”

Deadline for voter registration applications to be in to the Election Board are:

**December 17, 2010 for the Primary Election (if necessary); and  
March 4, 2011 for the Regular Election.**

The Election Board is not responsible for the failure of an eligible voter to complete the registration requirements by the prescribed deadlines.





The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has been awarded “2010 Business of the Year” by the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce. The Tribal Government was presented with the award during the Chamber Annual Dinner Meeting and Business Awards ceremony held at Little River Casino and Resort on Nov. 18, 2010.

Every year the Chamber recognizes a business or organization that employs 30 or more people and that has made major contributions to the Chamber of Commerce, the local business community and to the quality of life in Manistee County.

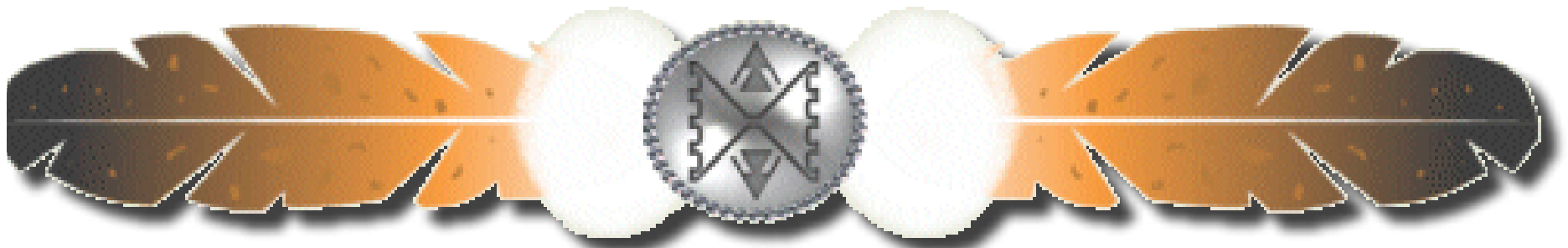
LRBOI was nominated for the award for a variety of reasons including the Mutual Aid Agreement, creation of the Red Cross emergency center at LRRCR, the renovation of the offices on River St. and for its continued support of local entrepreneurs.

“Any one of those reasons is good enough to be nominated, but the tribe went above and beyond for the betterment of the local community” said Melissa Reed, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. “The economic impact of the tribe is often overlooked, but it is vital to the vision of a brighter future we all hold. It is all together fitting that LRBOI is named business of the year”.

Story and Photo by:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff

Ogema Larry Romanelli and Speaker Steve Parsons received the award on behalf of the tribe at the dinner.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, Melissa Reed addressed the opening of the Tribal Council session to personally thank the tribal government for what the tribe means to the community with their contributions of time, energy and financial support. She specifically recognized Hotel Manager Charmaine Stone and Commerce Director Robert Memberto for their work as Board Members and Public Affairs Director Glenn Zaring for his work as a past (2 term) board member and current Government Affairs Chairman.



## Foundation adds Tribal Representation



The West Shore Healthcare Foundation in Manistee recently added representation from the tribal government when they appointed Glenn Zaring, Director of the Office of Public Affairs to a seat on their board.

The Foundation is a major fund-raiser and community advocate for the West Shore Community Hospital in Manistee. This hospital has continually improved their level of service and capability in recent years and it was the opinion of LRBOI Health Clinic management and the Office of the Ogema that representation on this group would be advantageous for tribal interests.





It was a cold and windy November morning as Anishinabe gathered at the Nibokaan Indian Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan for a ceremonial reburial of 144 ancestral remains and associated funerary objects. The remains were recently repatriated to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe by Central Michigan University and the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

“Boozhoo Anishinabe, Wewiib” beckoned the people into the cemetery during the processional as the people quietly carried the boxes of remains through the Eastern door of the cemetery and circled around the burial site and gently placed them in a row.

Frank Cloutier, Public Relations Director for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe began the program by thanking the people in attendance for coming out and joining them.

“This is a very solemn but a very joyous occasion” Cloutier said. “This is an incredible thing President Ross, Chi migwetch to your entire organization. It’s a wonderful thing and Central Michigan University chose to do the right thing. We want to celebrate that and keep it going. It is an example for everyone else to follow”.

Co-founder of the American Indian Movement, Dennis Banks spoke briefly about the significance of this occasion.

“There are 2 ways to be buried; the native way and the reburial way, that should never happen. The determination that we have shows that we will go to great lengths, no matter how cold it is, how hot it is, no matter how far the journey, we will travel that journey, and we will bring our people home” Banks said. Box by box, the remains of our ancestors were honored and then carried to their final resting place by tribal affiliated descendants.

*Nibwaakaawin—Wisdom*



*Minaadendamowin—Respect*



*Zaagi'idiwin—Love*



*Aakode'ewin—Bravery*



*Gwayakwaadiziwin—Honesty*



*Debwewin—Truth*



*Dabaadendiziwin—Humility*



Story and photos by:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff



The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Protection and Repatriation Allowance (MACPRA) returned to the earth the remains of 104 individuals that ranged in age from Elders to infants with their 900+ funerary items from the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and some that were brought into the Historic Preservation office by private individuals.

This is the culmination of two years of work by Eric Hemenway and MACPRA to return remains from various sources to the Tribes. Marilyn Merdzinski of the GRPM and her staff were of great assistance in this effort in preparing the remains for pick-up by the Historic Preservation Department staff. Janet Brashler of GVSU brought the final remains related to the Battle Point site in support of the effort to return them to the earth. LouAnn Wurst of WMU cooperated with MACPRA and the Tribe in returning the remains that were in their control.

On the Tuesday prior to the reburial, several persons including Austen Brauker, Pat Wilson, Jay Sam, Terri Raczkowski, Matthew Chandler, Valerie Chandler, Martha Howell, Darleen Martin, Margery Lutz, Bridgett Ramsay, Gloria Pomeroy and her daughter Sandy, all assisted with careful wrapping of the remains while prayers and a smudge were maintained. The earth was prepared with the equipment of the Utilities department and staffs from both Natural Resources and Facilities.

On the day of the event, fire was lit and Jimmie Mitchell offered a pwaagan, prayers and songs. The remains were placed in the earth with an apology for their being placed in this condition by others and the promise they would be safe as long as the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians exist. Those attending the reburial were Angela Sherigan, Marilyn Merdzinski, Janet Brashler, Jeff Chivis, Melissa Waitner, Willie Johnson, Shannon Martin, Jay Sam, Martha Howell and her children, Clatus Clyne, Bronsen Clyne, Blaque Clyne, Matthew and Valerie Chandler, Brian and Kathy Gibson, Jamie Friedel, Darleen Martin, Margery Lutz, and a few others whom we did not get their name. Many of these individuals assisted in placing the funerary items into the earth with our ancestors. Several attendees then made the trip back to the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center for the feast which was organized by Terri Raczkowski.

My thanks go out to the staff of the Historic Preservation Department, Utilities, Maintenance, Natural Resources and the others named earlier for their efforts to make this return to the earth very successful.

(article by Jonnie "Jay" Sam, Director of the Tribal Historical Preservation Department, LRBOI)



## GVSU holds series in Grand Rapids

Grand Valley State University has honored Native American with a series of lectures and panels during the month of November...the official ***American Indian Heritage Month***. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, a first event was held at Loosemore Auditorium featuring Dr. Beverly Singer, famed film maker and writer from the Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico (as she said, "...about 30 miles north of Santa Fe.")

The presentation was based on her book, *Wiping the War Paint off the Lens* (University of Minnesota Press 2001) where she examines the views of Native Americans throughout the history of film. Dr. Singer, in her book, points out how we have been portrayed and in some courses formed by this visual medium. She focuses on the struggle over two decades as Native Americans threw themselves into film-making in an effort to convey a true representation of various native cultures to an uncaring world.

Following Dr. Singer's presentation, a panel comprised of both tribal and news media, took up discussion of how the various tribes in Michigan are treated in the media. Panelists included Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Chairman of the Pokagon and of Potawatomi Indians; Glenn Zaring, Director of Public Affairs for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Lisa LaPlante, reporter and anchor for Fox-17 News; David Murray, reporter for the Grand Rapids Press and Jeff Smith, Director of the Institute for Information Democracy. The panel was let by Levi Rickert, long-time Native activist and consultant.

Other presentations during the month included:

- *Reel Injuns: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian*
- *Black Ash Basketry: A Story of Cultural Resilience*
- *Dennis Banks: A Vision of Our Nation's Future*
- ...and Ulali – Featuring founding members, Jennifer Kriesburh and Pura Fe' American Indian women singing/drumming group.

Our thanks to Grand Valley State University departments for sponsorship including: Inclusion and Equity; School of Communication; School of Social Work; School of Public, Nonprofit & Health Administration; Anthropology; Continuing Education; Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and Human Resources.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 30, 2010

## Statement by the President on House Passage of the Claims Settlement Act of 2010

I am pleased that today, the House has joined the Senate in passing the Claims Settlement Act of 2010. This important legislation will fund the agreements reached in the Pigford II lawsuit, brought by African American farmers, and the Cobell lawsuit, brought by Native Americans over the management of Indian trust accounts and resources. I want to thank Attorney General Holder and Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack for all their work to reach this outcome, and I applaud Congress for acting in a bipartisan fashion to bring this painful chapter in our nation's history to a close.

This bill also provides funding for settlements reached in four separate water rights suits brought by Native American tribes, and it represents a significant step forward in addressing the water needs of Indian Country. Yet, while today's vote demonstrates important progress, we must remember that much work remains to be done. And my Administration will continue our efforts to resolve claims of past discrimination made by women and Hispanic farmers and others in a fair and timely manner.



Release No. 0539.10 Contact:  
USDA Office of Communications  
(202) 720-4623

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Holder Announce Settlement Agreement with Native American Farmers Who Claim to Have Faced Discrimination by USDA in Past Decades  
Settlement Addresses Discrimination Claims Made Over Farm Loan Programs

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Attorney General Eric Holder today announced the settlement of a class action lawsuit filed against USDA by Native American farmers alleging discrimination by USDA. The settlement ends litigation concerning discrimination complaints from Native Americans generally covering the period 1981-1999.

“Today’s settlement can never undo wrongs that Native Americans may have experienced in past decades, but combined with the actions we at USDA are taking to address such wrongs, the settlement will provide some measure of relief to those alleging discrimination,” Vilsack said. “The Obama Administration is committed to closing the chapter on an unfortunate civil rights history at USDA and working to ensure our customers and employees are treated justly and equally.”

“The settlement announced today will allow USDA and the Native American farmers involved in the lawsuit to move forward and focus on the future,” said Attorney General Holder. “Under the process established in this agreement, Native American farmers who believe they suffered discrimination will have their claims heard. The Department of Justice is proud to partner with USDA in the agency’s effort to ensure fair and equitable treatment of its clients.”

Under the settlement agreement announced today, \$680 million will be made available to eligible class members to compensate them for their discrimination claims. Two payment “tracks” are available. Under the first track, persons who meet the class definition and provide substantial evidence of discrimination to an impartial adjudicator will receive a uniform settlement of up to \$50,000. The second track is for those persons who meet the class definition and believe they have stronger evidence of economic losses caused by discrimination. This track requires a higher evidentiary standard and damage awards are capped at a maximum of up to \$250,000 per individual. Actual monetary awards are subject to reduction based on the amount of available funding and the number of meritorious claims.

The Judgment Fund maintained by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Treasury will fund any monetary awards provided under the settlement. USDA will provide up to \$20 million to administer the settlement.

In addition to the monetary award, the agreement provides up to \$80 million in debt forgiveness to successful claimants with outstanding USDA Farm Loan program debt. Also, a moratorium on foreclosures of most claimants’ farms and a moratorium on accelerations and administrative offsets of class members’ farm loan accounts will be put into place until after claimants have gone through the claims process or the Secretary of Agriculture has been notified that a claim has been denied.

The settlement also provides a broad range of programmatic relief for Native American farmers, including creation of a new Federal Advisory Council for Native American farmers and ranchers that will include Native American representation from around the country as well as senior USDA officials. Meanwhile, a new Ombudsman position will be created to address farm program issues relating to Native American farmers and ranchers as well as all other socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Department will also offer Native American farmers enhanced technical assistance services through the establishment of a network that provides intensive instruction to recipients concerning financial, business and market planning skills and supports the deployment of tribal agriculture advocates and third party outreach and education providers.

This lawsuit, Marilyn Keepseagle et al., v. Vilsack (Civil Action No. 99-3119 (D.D.C.)), was filed on November 24th, 1999. The settlement will not become final until it is formally approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Under Secretary Vilsack’s leadership, USDA is working to address past civil rights complaints and today’s announcement is a major step in that effort. The Secretary and his leadership team are committed to addressing allegations of discrimination, and shortly after he took office he sent a memo to all USDA employees calling for “a new era of civil rights” for the Department. In February 2010, Secretary Vilsack announced the Pigford II settlement with black farmers; the Keepseagle settlement continues as part of that new era. Meanwhile, Secretary Vilsack continues to pursue the resolution of all claims of past discrimination against USDA, including claims from women and Hispanic farmers. Additional information on the efforts undertaken by the Secretary and USDA management is available at: <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/>.



**Challenge.gov** beta  
Government Challenges, Your Solutions

**(Editors' note:** Over the last three years, LRBOI has been coordinating with FEMA officials and Regional Emergency Preparedness organizations to integrate services for the good of the tribe, its people and its lands. Federal agencies involved in preparedness have taken an increased interest in the capabilities and abilities of the Native American community and are actively involving them in the planning and training process.)

11/23/2010 12:46:00 PM

## FEMA coordinating, supporting tribal partners in disaster preparation

Navajo-Hopi Observer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On Nov. 18, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate addressed the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at their 67th annual convention, where he discussed new ways FEMA is working to coordinate with and support its tribal partners to prepare for and respond to disasters and challenged the audience to come up with creative solutions for getting all communities ready for disasters before they strike.

As Fugate made clear in his remarks, tribal governments and organizations are a critical member of the nation's emergency management team, along with federal, state and local officials, faith-based, non-profit and volunteer organizations, and the public. As part of FEMA's efforts to better support tribal organizations, FEMA is currently working to place tribal liaisons in each of its regional offices throughout the country to coordinate directly with local tribes.

"We know Indian nations face many unique challenges when preparing for and coping with disasters," said Administrator Fugate. "Tribal leaders and organizations across the country are a critical member of our nation's emergency management team, and we are committed to strengthening our support for them as they work to protect their communities from disasters."

"As emergency managers, we need to constantly examine how we can better support and plan for all members of the community - especially our tribal partners," Fugate continued. "Your voices and ideas are crucial here - you know

better than anyone what needs to be done to protect your members from the impacts of a disaster. That's why we want you to submit creative ideas on how we can prepare the entire community before a disaster strikes to <http://challenge.gov/fema>."

Fugate also discussed the need for all stakeholders to prepare for worst case scenarios, what he calls "Maximum of Maximums" - disasters that go beyond the capability of government resources. He emphasized the importance of engaging the public in these efforts and urged the audience to encourage people to visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for simple steps everyone can take to prepare for disasters.

Under Fugate's leadership, FEMA has focused on engaging a diverse group of stakeholders as part of strengthening the nation's emergency management team. In September, FEMA hosted the first-ever National "Getting Real" Conference, which brought together leaders from the emergency management and disability communities to discuss strategies to integrate the entire community into emergency planning. FEMA also recently hosted its first-ever Latino Leadership Summit and Black Leadership Forum, which engaged stakeholders in discussions about how to better involve the entire community in emergency planning.

Administrator Fugate previously addressed the NCAI at their Executive Council Winter Session in March, and at last year's annual convention. NCAI is the largest and oldest tribal organization in the country, established in 1944. NCAI works to monitor and inform federal policies and decisions that affect tribal government interests.



### *Elder's Meditation of the Day December 10*

"Come forward and join hands with us in this great work for the Creator."

-- Traditional Circle of Elders,  
NORTHERN CHEYENNE

The Elders have spent years learning to pray and communicate with the Great Spirit. Their job is to pass this knowledge onto the young people. The Elders have told us we are now in a great time of healing. The Creator is guiding them to help the young people figure this out. We must get involved and participate. We should pray and see what it is the Great Spirit wants us to do. We need to sacrifice our time to help the people and to be of maximum use to the Creator. Every person is needed to accomplish this great healing.

Creator, whisper what  
You want me to do





## News Release

Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth  
MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Contact: Andrea Miller  
517.322.5898

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor [www.michigan.gov/lcc](http://www.michigan.gov/lcc)  
Andrew S. Levin, Acting Director Email: [mediainfo@michigan.gov](mailto:mediainfo@michigan.gov)  
Nida R. Samona, MLCC Chairperson  
Alcohol Energy Drinks Banned from the Michigan Market

## “Wide Awake Drunk”, “Cocaine in a Can”, “Blackout in a Can”

Lansing, MI (November 4, 2010) The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) is rescinding the approval of all alcohol energy drinks. Manufacturers of alcohol energy drinks will be notified through issuance of a Commission Order of the product ban and will be provided 30 days from the date of the Commission Order to remove these products from the State of Michigan. The decision was made in light of the several studies regarding alcohol energy drinks, the widespread community concerns aired by substance abuse prevention groups, parent groups and various members of the public, as well as the FDA's decision to further investigate these products. The Commission believes the packaging is often misleading, and the products themselves can pose problems by directly appealing to a younger customer, encouraging excessive consumption, while mixing alcohol with various other chemical and herbal stimulants. The recent events regarding minors in Washington State and other concerns from emergency room doctors quoted throughout the country have prompted Chairperson Nida Samona and Commissioner Patrick Gagliardi to take action. "The Commission's concern for the health, safety and welfare of Michigan citizens and the fact that there is not enough research to validate that these products are safe for consumption has made me believe that until further research is done by the FDA, they should no longer be on Michigan shelves," said Samona. "Alcohol has been recognized as the number one drug problem among youth, and the popularity of alcohol energy drinks is increasing at an alarming rate among college students and underage drinkers." A typical alcohol energy drink is 24 ounces and has a 12 percent alcohol content, compared to a 12 ounce can of beer, which normally has an alcohol content ranging from 4 to 5 percent. It's almost 3 to 4 times the alcohol content of a 12 ounce beer.

"One can, one serving, is enough to get you intoxicated. Alcohol energy drinks cost on average \$2 - \$5 per can making these products easily accessible and affordable," said Commissioner Patrick Gagliardi.

"Michigan Alcohol Policy commends Chairwoman Samona and Commissioner Gagliardi on the attention and leadership they have given to this issue. Stimulants combined with alcohol is a dangerous combination and today is a victory for all the citizens of Michigan," said Executive Director of Michigan Alcohol Policy, Mike Tobias.

For more information or a copy of the Commission Order please visit our website, [www.michigan.gov/lcc](http://www.michigan.gov/lcc).

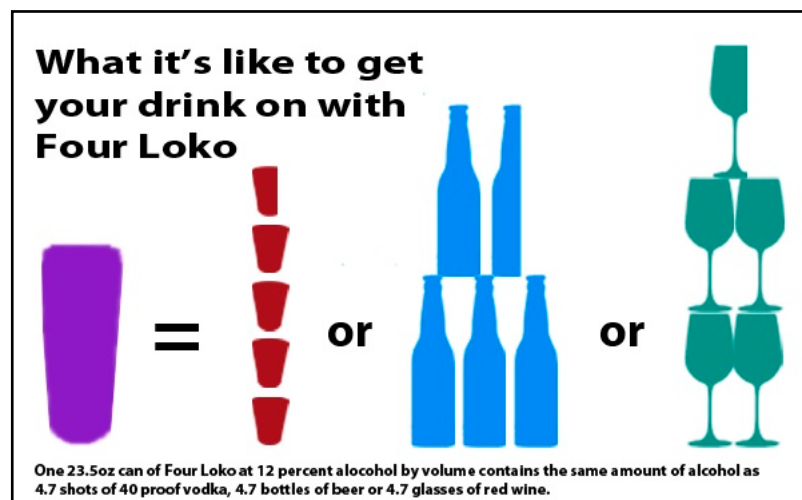
###

DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Michigan Liquor Control Commission, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30005, Lansing, Michigan, 48909

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, P.O. Box 30004, Ottawa Bldg 4th Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48909





# Children's Christmas Party

Mndoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)  
January 2011 vol.8 Issue 1







"This Elders Conference has been the most successful ever" said Ron Pete.

A record number of Elders were in attendance for this year's conference, over 210 Elders registered for the event. Traveling from far and wide, some journeyed from as far away as Alaska to keep informed of casino/tribal operations and visit with family.

Elders received updates on the state of the tribe's business affairs, much of which was covered during the Fall Membership Meeting. However, questions were raised concerning the Muskegon Project. Ogema Larry Romanelli addressed their concerns explaining that currently the project was stalled by the Speaker of the House and he is working diligently to get it up and running.

"We are offering one thousand jobs; Michigan does not stop at Detroit's city limits. West Michigan needs these jobs and we will make this a destination resort" said Romanelli.

Romanelli also recommended that the tribe needs to start investigating other avenues for business

ventures "We need to expand our business into alternative energy such as wind and green technology production" he said.

The tribal council was asked some tough questions about voting, constitution changes and tribal council candidate regulations during their presentation period. Elders asked why outlying members were unable to vote for each seat on council and not just the districts.

"Elections are reservation based" said Janine Sam.

Changes to the Tribal Constitution are on the horizon and many drafts have been written up. The Ogema wrote 2 drafts, the Elders committee wrote 4 drafts and the Tribal Council wrote 2 drafts. Elders were told the new constitution will be written in straight forward language that will be easily understood.

"Members have the right to say what they want in the constitution" said Bob Whiteloon.

"Council is trying to incorporate material from each of the proposed documents, we are trying to do what the people want" said Sam. "Council will try our best to get a final draft out and published for review".

With elections around the corner, Elders asked if candidates will have to submit to background checks and drug testing. It was answered yes to the background checks.

"Elected officials do not submit to drug testing in the same fashion as employees, it is voluntary, not mandatory, only 2 council members have undergone testing and have both come back clean" said

Romanelli. "Everyone should be held to the same standards".

Though portions of the conference were of a more serious note it was a time to gather with friends and family. The event provided an opportunity for tribal citizens to acquaint themselves with these important members of our community in a way that might not have been possible otherwise.



## Senior Prom



The Elders put on their dancing shoes and "knocked some boots" to the Cupid Shuffle and Lady Gaga during the Senior "Senior Prom" held at the Aki Maadiziwin community center.

The "Senior Prom" was coordinated by Elder Sally Jobs who decorated the hall with a festive atmosphere complete with flashing lights and a disco ball. DJ Steve "Spinning Wheels" Jobs provided the event with great tunes and took requests for music that everyone enjoyed.

Chi Miigwetch to all who came out to line dance and have a good time!



Story's and Photos by:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff

## Big Changes for CHS and EHAP office!

The Contract Health Services (CHS) and Extended Health Assistance Programs (EHAP) are changing format! **Beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, Tribal Citizens will no longer have a specific specialist (worker).** There will be a person assigned to each task. For example; if you need to call and request a prescription fax be sent, you will speak to one person, if you call needing a purchase order or confirmation number, you will speak to another person.

Also, you will soon be able to report your appointments via email. We are working with the IT Department to be able to set this up on the website. Our goal is to have this change implemented the same time as the format change on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

As always, our goal is to assist the Tribal Citizens with healthcare needs. These changes will help us be able to do that. We ask that you be patient with us as these changes are implemented after the New Year.

May you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and very Happy New Year!

Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns. The toll free number is 1.888.382.8299 or locally 231.723.8299.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gina Wright

**PS – I would like to thank my staff for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year; we would not be successful without you! The CHS/EHAP staff consists of Kathy Gibson, Roberta Davis, Krystal Davis, Ronda Koon, and Mark Plouhar.**

## Giizhowaa Binojeeuk



It's snowing and blowing and cold outside; wrap your baby up in a beautiful handmade warm sweater. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Family Services Department had been selected to receive beautiful hand-made baby sweaters for the young children in our community. The hand-made sweaters are lovingly made and donated in memory of Elizabeth Zimmermann (August 9, 1910–November 30, 1999) a British-born knitter who was known for revolutionizing the modern practice of knitting through her books and instructional series on American public television. Her motto was "Knit on with confidence and hope, through all crises." Knitters across the United States and Canada participated in a knitting challenge to bring these beautiful sweaters to our children.

The sweaters were made for babies from newborn to toddler and come in many different colors. Anyone of these beautiful sweaters would make a wonderful addition to any babies' wardrobe in through cold weather.

Sweaters are available at the Family Services Department located at the Administration Building or call us at 1-231-398-6726 and schedule a time to pick up a sweater for your little one. Sweaters cannot be mailed.



Food Distribution Program ( FDPIR ) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamp Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification. In determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations  
Net Monthly Income Standards  
October 1, 2010 & October 1, 2011  
Household Size Income Limits

1. \$ 1,045.00
2. \$ 1,357.00
3. \$ 1,668.00
4. \$ 1,991.00
5. \$ 2,329.00
6. \$ 2,666.00
7. \$ 2,978.00
8. \$ 3,290.00

For each additional member add \$ 312.00

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.

Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M

Lunch hour is 12:00 1:00

Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson

1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program

Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715





## Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



Story and photos by:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff

A food drive and raffle was held during the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians November employee luncheon. A mountain of non-perishable items were collected and generously donated to the Salvation Army in an effort to help out less fortunate members of the Manistee area during the holiday season.

Major JoAnn Hixenbaugh was amazed at the amount of canned goods brought in to the chapter "You must have been collecting for quite some time" Hixenbaugh said. She was astounded when Barb Czarnecki replied smiling "No, this was all collected today during the luncheon".

Chi migwetch to all the employees who helped fill the pantry!

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## Attention all Tribal Members

### Commissions/Committees:

The following commissions have current openings.

Gaming Commission	2 openings
Health Commission	2 openings
Binojeeuk	2 openings
LRCR Board	2 openings

*Letters of interest will be kept on file for one year*

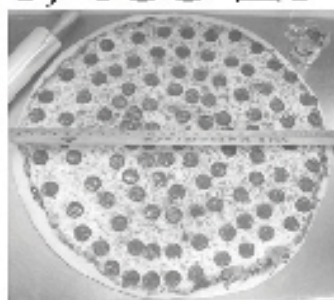
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Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is a full service law firm that limits its practice to Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the U.S.

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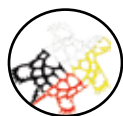
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@ 231-723-7250

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[ymshkigwaasange@yahoo.com](mailto:ymshkigwaasange@yahoo.com)

## Government Closes for the following Holidays

- \*New Years Day
- \*Treaty Recognition Day
- \*Memorial Day
- \*Independence Day
- \*Labor Day
- \*Reaffirmation Day (September 21<sup>st</sup>)
- \*Veteran's Day
- \*Thanksgiving Day
- \*Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- \*Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- \*Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.

Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



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**The Warriors Society is  
Gathering photographs of members to be  
use when their office opens.**

Please send photos of  
our Warriors either in  
Uniform or in  
Civilian dress to  
the address below



**WARRIORS SOCIETY**

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,  
Warriors Society,  
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660

## Assistance Programs



### Mission Statement

*“To strengthen and secure maximum independence for individuals and family members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by providing assistance services that meet the needs of the community.”*

### Vision

*“Meeting the needs of our community and empowering our members through accessible and responsive services to promote self-sufficiency, quality of life, health status and wellbeing.”*

### Members Assistance Department Goals & Objectives

#### Goals

Meet the needs of the individual and/or family by providing programs for health and safety, continued utility service and other services requested by tribal members that are identified as a need or crisis. Maintain a quality relationship with the members of the Tribal Community. Utilize a centralized intake process for the Tribal Community to contact for program information and to receive prompt services and/or referrals.

#### Objectives

- Promote health, safety, self sufficiency and personal growth in individuals and family members by providing confidential, consistent, effective and timely services to ensure the health and safety of eligible individuals/ families in need of assistance.
- Respond to all family support advocate's and referral requests to ensure the most assistance is provided to the eligible member and/or family in crisis or in need of assistance.
- Advocate and/or provide funding for Indian specific programs to fill the needs of the local and at-large communities based on membership requests
- Inform membership of existing local and Tribal resources and coordinate service assistance.
- Network with tribal service departments and/or agencies to maximize utilization of services and information available to the members of the Tribal Community.
- Create and implement a centralized intake process accessible to service departments. This process will be utilized to compile information for case management, family needs assessment, referral and follow up, service tracking of funding provided to each individual.

### FY2010/11 Members Assistance Department Programs

Programs are available in ALL STATES with the exception of the grant funded programs as noted in program listing.

#### \*Food Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a dietary/food crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. If household is receiving food assistance from another agency, it is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with agency to ensure accessing this program will not affect current benefits. Submission of receipts is a requirement of this program. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.



---

## **\*Low Income Energy Assistance Program**

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year up to maximum amount not to exceed \$300. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

---

## **\*Emergency Transportation Assistance**

The Emergency Transportation Assistance Program assists members experiencing a transportation crisis. Program scope for assistance is repair or replacement of mechanical and/or electrical items required for proper vehicle operation and maintenance of safety items.

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Vehicle ownership is in the name of the Tribal member or a residence verified permanent member of the household
- Vehicle areas in need of repair meet the scope of the program.
- Amount of assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household.

---

## **\*Elder Chore Assistance Program**

The Elder Chore Assistance assists elders age 55 and older. This program is intended to provide limited, short-term financial assistance to eligible Elder members who are disabled and are limited in their ability to perform routine household chores essential to their health and safety and have no other recourse for assistance.

There is no income requirement for this program. Elder must be a permanent member of the household and must provide proof of a permanent or temporary physical disability. Temporary disability shall be for no less than 30 days and shall be verified by documented evidence of temporary disability from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. Permanent disability shall be verified by documented evidence from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional.

The assistance for elder chore services are identified in the categories below;

- Snow Removal from drive way and sidewalks
- Weather stripping around doors and windows
- Grass cutting, leaf raking and removal, general clearing of debris around home
- Gutter cleaning
- General cleaning of the household including but not limited to dusting and cob web removal, vacuuming, trash removal, bathroom cleaning of toilets and water closets, dishwashing, laundry, scrubbing floors and walls, cleaning of appliances, washing windows, stripping and making of beds
- Circumstances that are outside the scope of items listed may be applicable to the program scope only if left un-serviced poses a threat to the health and safety of the elder.

Amount of Assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household

---

## **\*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program**

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Program may be access once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
  - Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
  - Received a court ordered eviction or foreclosure notice
  - Relocation to affordable housing
  - Relocation due to loss of housing due to natural disaster
  - Relocation due to substandard housing as documented by an inspector
  - If program has been accessed in the past, received a denial from an outside agency for assistance.
  - Amount of assistance: Equivalent to one month's rent or mortgage payment not to exceed program maximum program amount available to prevent or resolve housing crisis.
- 
- 

\*Programs can be accessed by the Parent or Guardian of a member who has not reached the age of 18 or the legal guardian of a member who has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to require legal guardian over the person and/or affairs, provided that the guardian is not the State of Michigan or other state government. This information must be on file with the Enrollment Department.

---

~THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS ~

Elder Meal Program

The Elder Meal Program available at the Aki Community Center.

**Meals** will be served for lunch at noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Aki Community Center located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung Manistee, MI 49660

One very important component of keeping elders healthy in their homes and communities is providing nutrition services. Adequate nutrition is critical to health, functioning, and quality of life. The purposes of nutrition services, activities and disease prevention education are:

- *To reduce hunger and food insecurity;*
- *To promote socialization of older individuals; and*
- *To promote health and well-being by assisting older individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions.*

**Eligibility:** Enrolled Tribal Elders age 55 and over. Also included in this eligibility are spouse of the eligible participant, handicapped or disabled individuals in the same household are eligible to participate when accompanying the Tribal Elder to the meal site. The meals are provided at NO CHARGE.

**Guest Meals** are available for individuals who would like to attend a meal with an eligible participant/Tribal Elder but do not meet eligibility guidelines. There will be a charge for the guest meal that is calculated according to the meal being served. Average cost is about \$5.00.

**Donations** are acceptable and will be used for program activities and to purchase food. At no time are contributions required however the offer to contribute must be provided per program requirements.

**Home Delivered Meals** – (limited services and based on availability of volunteers) Elders should only be on the home delivered meal program if they are unable to leave their homes without great difficulty. Their inability to leave home may be because of illness, disability, or general frailty. Frailty means having a physical or mental disability that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks. This shall be determined by a mental health professional or medical professional.

**Monthly Menu** – the menu will be published in the Rapid River News, the Currents, posted in tribal buildings and posted on our website.

**Beneficial Activities** will begin activities in September and will include fun games, educational presentations on Elder health and wellbeing and other activities of interest to our Elders. The activities portion of the program is a collaborated effort with tribal service departments and outside service agencies; we are hoping to have a well blended number of events on the September Menu Calendar. This calendar will be mailed to all Elders whom have completed their Intake Form.

**Registration** is required to participate in the Elder Meal Program with initial intake processes taking place at this time. If you would like to participate in this program please contact Lee Ivinson or Noelle Cross about this program. To complete the short intake process contact the Members Assistance Department or complete the form at the first meal you attend.

The many benefits of this program will be evident with more participation by our Elders. To ensure this program continues there will be assessments conducted on participating elders. The data gathered from this process will assist us in gauging how the program is working and areas where improvements can be made.

\*LIHEAP

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Heat Source – Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)**

This is a grant funded program to provide assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a heating crisis and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Priority is given to Elders, Disabled and Single parents of young children.

-Eligible if someone in the household is receiving SSI benefits or are receiving Food Stamps

Individuals who reside outside the 9 county areas and states- LIHEAP is available at the state level. If you are in need assistance, contact your local Department of Health and Human Services for assistance.

**ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS –  
LIHEAP –**

**Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component- Tribal Elders**

This is a grant funded component of LIHEAP to provide assistance to Tribal Elders who meet the eligibility requirements, have a medical condition that require air conditioning during hot summer months, are experiencing an energy crisis due to additional energy burden to operate the cooling system and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.

- **Assistance is available May 1, 2011 thru September 30, 2011.**



**NOTE\*\* LIHEAP funds are available in all counties of Michigan, for the counties outside of the Tribal 9 county service areas the local Department of Health and Human Services administers this program under their guideline rules. LIHEAP is also available in all states through their local Health and Human Services and Housing Authorities.**

**Funding Cycle is Oct 1<sup>st</sup> thru Sept 31<sup>st</sup> – If you are in need of assistance it is important to contact the office as the need arises.**

## **REACH Program –**

**FUNDING IS LIMITED AND IS A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS – APPLY NOW FOR SERVICES!!!**

The REACH program will be utilized to promote health and safety for low income households in need of assistance and education in reducing and controlling energy costs. Successful applicants will participate in a health and safety questionnaire and provide data for energy use and track the % of decreases in energy expenses over a 16 month period. **The focus of the program will be promoting energy efficiency, education in conservation of energy and budgeting skills to reduce energy crisis. The program will promote Energy Smart Bulbs , Weatherization & Education, Energy Smart Appliances , Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors and Fire Extinguishers.**

Eligibility criteria:

- a. Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- b. Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- c. Household income does not exceed program guidelines
- d. Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- e. Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name where applicable and/or must have a 12 month lease / rental agreement.

## **Well and Septic Program**

The Well and Septic is an Indian Health Services (IHS) funded program. This program promotes health and safety for our tribal members by providing new or renovated sanitation facilities (Well and Septic). This program is available in the nine county service areas. Applicant must be:

- f. Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- g. Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- h. Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- i. Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- j. Project Site meets the I.H.S Eligibility Requirements.

A complete application and the supporting documents must be submitted in order to process any assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application and are required at time of submission.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for program information and/or to request an application. Applications and Program Regulations are available online at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com) Members Assistance link

## **Other Services:**

- Referral assistance in finding assistance organizations and/or agencies to assist with needs that are not readily available or provided through tribal programs.
- Interdepartmental Referral Services that provided interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments when assisting members.

## **Department Staff**

**Lee A. Iverson – Members Assistance Coordinator**

**Amber Moore – Intake Clerk**

**Linda Wissner – Intake Clerk**

**Noelle Cross – Elder Meal Program Administrator**



**Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288**

**Office Hours Mon thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm**

**Closed for lunch hour 12pm – 1pm (Unless appointment is made in advance)**



Chief Makwa Hale (Tribal Member) submitted this photograph of his late Grandfather, Chief James W. Pontiac, Grand River Band taken in early 1900 with his best friend, a businessman named Mr. Kendricks. Hale is also interested in communicating with members. His mailing address is: Chief Garry Makwa Hale, Inmate No. 143945, Florence Crane Correctional Facility, 38 4th Street, Coldwater, MI 49036.



Ted Theodore shot this 8 point 17” outside 5” buck on September 21 in Manistee County.

Aki Community Center Elder Meals Menu 2011


- What are your New Years Resolutions?

  - 1) I will make plans more often
  - 2) I will read at least one book a month
  - 3) I will do something for myself each week
  - 4) Write an autobiography. Share your life story
  - 5) I will eat a fresh fruit and a fresh vegetable every day

Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886  
E-mail: [ncross@lrboi.com](mailto:ncross@lrboi.com)  
Volunteers are needed to help with

Meals served at 12 o'clock

  - No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.

~~~~~ JANUARY ~~~~~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Chicken Parmesan Italian veggies Pasta salad Peach cobbler	4	5 Oven Fried Chicken Lima Beans Apple Sherbet	6	7 Baked Fish Rice Asparagus	8 Elder Committee Mtg.
9	10 Smothered Pork Chop Red Potato/ Corn Fruit crisp	11	12 Hot Beef Sandwich Mashed Potato Green beans/Jell-O Activity: Wii Bowling	13	14 Chicken Pot pie Broccoli Cottage cheese Fruit cocktail	15
16	17 Chicken Breast Baked Potato Green beans Pudding	18	19 French dip Potato wedges/Peas Strawberry Shortcake Activity: Wii Bowling	20	21 Vegetable soup Gilled Cheese on Wheat Fruit Activity Prize BINGO	22
23	24 Taco Bake Spanish Rice/Beans Yogurt cream Activity : Nutrition	25	26 Lasagna Broccoli Fruit juice/Tapioca Activity: Wii Bowling	27	28 Pot Roast Red potato Carrots Sugar free Pie	29
30	31 Chili Corn Bread Steamed Carrots Pudding		Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.	Menu subject to change with out notice.	Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.	





Construction at the Manistee Municipal Marina continues without any further delay after it was determined the site did not contain any other human remains.

Under the direction of Jay Sam; the LRBOI Tribal Police and members of the Manistee Police force worked together on Nov. 12, 2010 at the site where a radar penetrating device, provided by Abonmarche, located some anomalies that were thought at the time to be more remains.

Using heavy equipment provided by Dunbar Excavation, further examination of the Marina site revealed a wooden layer of bark, an abandoned clay sewer tile and a row of construction debris comprised of bricks and mortar.

A partial human jawbone had been unearthed at the site on Nov. 4, 2010 and 3 other bone fragments were discovered by cadaver dogs on Nov. 9, 2010. The fragments were identified by the Coroner as phalanges, a rib and a possible arm or lower leg bone.

The case was closed after no additional remains were discovered and all the parties involved were satisfied with the investigation. Sam took possession of the remains which were then reburied at the Tribal Cemetery in Custer.

Story and Photos by:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff





# Currents

You can find this and many other issues at [lrboi.com](http://lrboi.com)

*Megwa Ezhiweback*



*Mndoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)*  
January 2011 vol.8 Issue 1



## L.R.B.O.I.'s little hero



A highlight of the Children's Christmas Party was when Ogema Larry Romanelli made a special presentation to the Grandson of Deb Davis, Bishop Davis. The award for Meritorious Service recognized Bishop for action at the Jiingtamok this year in coming to the aid of someone who was having a medical problem. Bishop stepped right up to do the right thing and that is something of which we are all proud. Bishop is 9 years old and is a student at Madison Elementary School in Manistee."

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident



Every year, the LRBOI employees have fun at Christmas time decorating a tree that is located in the Mail Room at the Bank Building. These decorations are special in that they represent the departments and what they do in the government. They are also fun because people get very creative! Really creative!



## Tis definitely the season!

